United Nations S/2018/107

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 February 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 7 February 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit herewith a non-paper, compiled as a courtesy by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations, summarizing the thematic briefing of the Security Council held on 18 January 2018 on the theme "Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction: confidence-building measures" (see annex).

I am grateful for your participation in and contribution to the briefing. We hope that the attached summary will serve as a reference in continued discussions on the role of the United Nations in assisting Member States in developing, augmenting and promoting confidence-building measures to support the new agenda for peace.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kairat **Umarov**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations

18-01997 (E) 220318

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 7 February 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

President's summary of the high-level thematic briefing on the theme "Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction: confidence-building measures", held in New York on 18 January 2018

Kazakhstan, during its presidency of the Security Council in the month of January 2018, organized a high-level thematic briefing on the theme "Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction: confidence-building measures", which was held on 18 January 2018.

The main objective of this event was to seek long-lasting political solutions for protracted regional conflicts that may entail threats of use or actual use of weapons of mass destruction and corresponding risks. The Council members underscored the importance of preventing conflicts through dialogue and strengthening confidence-building measures.

The members of the Security Council underlined the importance of promoting the ability of the United Nations to deliver on its founding determination to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war and putting emphasis on conflict prevention, preventive diplomacy, peacebuilding and sustaining peace. They further recalled in this regard that a comprehensive conflict prevention strategy should include mediation and non-proliferation as interdependent, complementary and non-sequential components.

The event was notable for its high-level participation, with eminent dignitaries from Poland (President Andrzej Duda), Kuwait (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al Hamad Al-Sabah), the Russian Federation (Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sergey Lavrov), the United States of America (Nikki Haley, in her capacity as a member of President Trump's Cabinet) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific, Mark Field).

The most positive common observation by all participants in the meeting concerned the great significance and timely relevance of the chosen theme. This allowed for a thought-provoking discussion on the pressing issue of non-proliferation, on which collective security and prosperity depend.

Delegates presented their vision and recommendations for addressing many specific national, regional and thematic issues and concerns that, for many reasons, had remained unresolved, owing primarily to the lack of an appropriate atmosphere of trust and confidence.

The deliberations focused on the most topical issues concerning the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. They were related to the effectiveness of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in the face of the current threats to non-proliferation and disarmament, the future prospects of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on the Iranian nuclear programme and the current situation on the Korean Peninsula. Other issues mentioned were the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, the relevance and role of the mechanism of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), and threats that called for the building of an atmosphere of mutual trust and confidence and the holding of constructive dialogues.

The meeting commenced with President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan presiding. He highlighted the key issues on the international agenda in the field of non-proliferation, calling upon Member States to strengthen confidence-building measures and upon the members of the Security Council to find compromises in order to resolve existing conflicts and thus build a safer world.

President Nazarbayev stressed that one of the most important priorities of his country in the Security Council was to eliminate the threat of a global war and to settle local conflicts, as previously reflected in his landmark document, "Manifesto: the world, the twenty-first century", and his political address of January 2017, when Kazakhstan assumed its seat on the Security Council.

The Secretary-General, António Guterres, speaking at the briefing, drew attention to the need to develop effective measures to strengthen confidence and transparency in the field of non-proliferation and to enhance the role of preventive diplomacy as a pledge of lasting global peace and stability.

He expressed his firm conviction that the United Nations could play a central role in assisting its Member States in developing, augmenting and supporting confidence-building measures and that its position as an honest broker allowed it to serve as a forum in which all parties could engage in dialogue.

Short summaries of the individual statements made at the meeting can be found in the press release prepared by the Secretariat, which is available at http://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13166.doc.htm. In addition, a full transcript of the meeting can be found in document S/PV.8160.